

Girls' and Women's Education Project

Quarterly Report

October 1, 2002 to December 31, 2002

Prepared for:

Bureau for Economic Growth, Agriculture, and Trade's/Office of
Women in Development
United States Agency for International Development
Washington, D.C.

Prepared by:

DevTech Systems, Inc.
Contract # LAG-C-00-97-00017

NARRATIVE

TITLE

Technical and Administrative Services to the Bureau of Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade's (EGAT/WID's) Office of Women in Development to Support the Girls' and Women's Education Activity Objectives. (WID-GWE) LAG- C-00-97-00017

1. Background

A five-year contract to carry out this assistance was awarded to DevTech Systems, Inc. on September 30, 1997. The objectives of the contract are to support EGAT/WID in: 1) monitoring the Girls' and Women's Education Initiative; 2) developing effective communications among all stakeholders in the Girls' and Women's Education Initiative; and 3) documenting programs and products concerning the Girls' and Women's Education Initiative. This contract calls for the execution of core activities and not buy-in or subcontractor activities.

2. Expected Results

The restructuring within what used to be the Global Bureau of USAID placed the implementation of the Girls' and Women's Education (GWE) Initiative in the Office of Women in Development. One result of this restructuring is the requirement for technical and administrative assistance from a contractor to support EGAT/WID's attainment of the goals and objectives of this Initiative. Implementation of the Girls' and Women's Education Initiative is conducted in both emphasis and cooperating countries by contractors under separate procurements. The purpose of this contract is to provide assistance to EGAT/WID to ensure that the goals of the GWE Initiative, as reflected by SSO2 (Broad-based, informed constituents mobilized to improve girls' education in emphasis countries) and its IRs and indicators, are attained.

3. Project Core Activities

The Project Core Activities for the first quarter (October-December) FY03 quarter are divided into the following three parts:

A. Activity Narrative and Task Report

The Activity Narrative and the Task Report contain both a discussion and a recounting of all the events covered during the reporting period (including events already detailed in the monthly reports for the same period). The Task Report is divided into eight general contract tasks: 1) monitor GWE Initiative; 2) develop effective communications with GWE constituencies; 3) plan and coordinate a range of GWE focused meetings and events; 4) provide technical and administrative assistance to Missions; 5) develop, or assist in, writing reports, studies, and concept papers, and develop innovative ideas; 6) coordinate development, review, revision, and dissemination as appropriate of GWE focused documents, publications, and deliverables; 7) coordinate monitoring and evaluation activities for GWE; and 8) develop and maintain reference materials on the Girls' and Women's Education Initiative.

B. Project Management - A report on what activities were accomplished to fulfill contractual responsibilities.

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C. Implementation Constraints – A report of constraints that prevented the fulfillment of specific contractual responsibilities.

A.1. Quarterly Narrative

DevTech has been engaged in normal communication and monitoring activities (which are not reflected in the chart below but can be found in the monthly activity reports), from reviewing and processing terms of reference and country clearances, interacting with Missions, sharing data and requesting information on girls' education, to constructively participating in meetings and responding to requests from EGAT/WID. Specifically, DevTech provided gender analysis and feedback on the Zambia, Burundi and Democratic Republic of Congo country strategies. DevTech has also arranged for a dissemination report meeting for World Education that was held at USAID on November 18, 2002. In addition, DevTech reviewed "Ethnographic Study of the Effects of Active Learning Programs on Girls' Persistence and Completion of Primary School in Developing Countries" and provided feedback. The report was based on data collected during fieldwork performed by Juarez and Associates in Guatemala and Honduras. DevTech submitted success stories from GWE activities to EGAT/WID for upcoming USAID Annual Review and FrontLines publications. DevTech also attended the United Nations Girls' Education Initiative that was held in New York City on October 31, 2002.

DevTech continued to organize the development of a library of GWE products and documents. During this quarter, the filing, labeling and categorization of GWE files was finalized. Reference lists were developed for reports, publications and lists.

DevTech has been focusing on many of the activities that are associated with project closeout during this quarter. The property disposition letter has been submitted and approved. DevTech's contract was modified to extend it to March 31, 2003.

A.2. WID-GWE Provided Technical and Administrative Assistance to EGAT/WID in:

General Contract Tasks	Specific Tasks Completed (Selected)
1. Monitor GWE Initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Reviewed GEMS report, "Ethnographic Study of the Effects of Active Learning Programs on Girls' Persistence and Completion of Primary School in Developing Countries" and provided feedback. The report was based on data from GEMS fieldwork in Guatemala and Honduras. A second revision will include data from the Philippines. After giving feedback, DevTech met with GEMS Project Director, Ray Chesterfield, to discuss the feedback and offer suggestions for integrating material on the Philippines into the report.Devoted significant time to GWE project close-out (see Contract Maintenance section).
2. Develop Effective Communications with GWE Constituencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Circulated the text of a New York Times article entitled "Afghanistan's Found Generation: Their First Semester in the New World." The article was written on girls' participation in education in Afghanistan.Circulated an article on the U.S. State Department's First Global Women's Conference in October 2002, "Women in the Global Community." The conference

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	<p>was held in Istanbul, Turkey and was funded by the Fulbright Foundation. Approximately 200 participants from the Middle East, North Africa, South Asia, Europe, Central Asia and North America came together to focus on the role of women as leaders in the global community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Circulated weblinks to gender websites of interest, including the website of Siyanda. The objective of Siyanda is to support practitioners in implementing gender programs and in mainstreaming gender equality concerns into all programs and projects. The website holds a database of gender resources and materials.• Circulated a DFID study on the potential importance of SWApS (Sector Wide Approaches) in tackling gender bias in education. The report, entitled “Mainstreaming gender through sector wide approaches in education: synthesis report”, had three case studies: India, Ghana and Uganda.• Forwarded minutes from the UNGEI meeting on Girls’ Education held on October 31 at UNICEF to colleagues in USAID EGAT/WID and EGAT/ED offices.• Circulated web link to UNDP web page with information on the International Conference on Financing for Development held in Monterrey, Mexico, March 2002. The website contains background information on the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The background materials and documents provide information on the role and priority of girls' education in MDGs.• Forwarded text of New York Times article, “Under the Ramadan Moon”, about gender relations in Saudi Arabia. The article also discussed the status of girls’ and boys’ education in the Kingdom, which some Saudi critics are urging the government to reform.• Circulated web link to UNDP web page with information on the International Conference on Financing for Development held in Monterrey, Mexico, March 2002. The website contains background information on the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The background materials and documents provide information on the role and priority of girls' education in MDGs.• Circulated web link to USAID web page regarding USAID participation in the recent High-Level group meeting on Education for All (EFA) held in Abuja, Nigeria, on November 19-20. The web page provides a summary of the 2000 EFA goals and a document with USAID’s recent contributions to basic education.• Forwarded information regarding a Fundraiser for Afghan Women hosted by the Women’s Information Network (WIN) on December 6, 2002. Proceeds are going to health programs in Afghanistan supporting women.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Forwarded text of an article from the Network of East-West Women (NEWW) discussion list on Russian authorities' debate to ban Barbie dolls. The NEWW electronic mailing list is an open space for exchange on gender issues in Central and Eastern Europe and the Newly Independent States, as well as women's issues in other parts of the world.• Circulated web link to publication on gender equality entitled, "Rising Tide: Gender Equality & Cultural Change around the World," due to be released in May 2003 by Cambridge University Press. The book sets out to understand how modernization has changed cultural attitudes towards gender equality in the 20th century and to analyze the political consequences of this process by comparing more than 70 nations worldwide.• Forwarded text of International Herald Tribune article on girls' education, "Give Priority to the Girls" written by GWE colleague Joshua Muskin. Dr. Muskin directed the implementation of the GWE project, Proyecto Global, in Guatemala through World Learning under a subcontract to AIR.• Forwarded text of an article about the "Sixteen Days of Peace" campaign organized in South Africa. The campaign is being held annually between November 25-December 10 to raise awareness on gender violence in southern Africa. This year, NGOs have called on President Thabo Mbeki for an investigation into South Africa's "shockingly low" conviction rate for incidences of rape.
3. Plan and Coordinate a Range of GWE Focused Meetings and Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Met with WID team members Anne Dykstra and Julie Hanson Swanson to discuss the planning document circulated by the UN Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI). Reviewed the document in preparation for a meeting in New York City on October 31.• Senior Policy and Planning Specialist, Meghan Donahue, attended the October 31 UNGEI meeting in New York City. The meeting was chaired by the director of the UNGEI, Cream Wright, and was attended by various practitioners and representatives of the NGO community. The attendees were encouraged to give feedback to the UNGEI regarding the planning document in support of the UN 2005 goal to achieve near parity in basic education globally.• Assisted WID office with coordination and promotion of a presentation by the World Education GWE-PRA project on the results of their research efforts in three countries: Bolivia, Peru and Honduras. The presentation was held at USAID on November 18 and was attended by colleagues from EGAT/WID and EGAT/ED. The GWE-PRA Project Director, Shirley Burchfield, discussed the findings and the lessons learned from the research process.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior Policy and Planning Specialist met with April Palmerlee, U.S. State Department Senior coordinator for International Women's Issues, to discuss girls' education and U.S. State Department positions on women's issues. • Attended panel discussion at AED, "Education in the Muslim World: What's Next?" held on November 20. Panelists included former U.S. Ambassador, Frank Wisner; Director of UNICEF/Egypt Education, Malak Zaalouk; journalist and former Pakistani political advisor, Husain Haqqani; and AED education specialist, Uzma Anzar. • Attended SID/WID panel discussion at Peace Corps, "Future Directions of Girls' and Women's Education—Needs and Next Steps" held on December 9. The brown-bag event was designed to elicit participant input to the USAID planning process for activities and approaches to girls' and women's education over the next five years. Representatives from USAID EGAT/WID, World Bank, and the Peace Corps gave presentations on girls' education. • Attended WID IQC meeting December 17 at USAID where contractors reflected on past experiences and lessons learned to provide a traditional framework for future GWE activities through the EGAT/WID office.
4. Provide Technical and Administrative Assistance to Missions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submitted feedback to WID office on USAID/Zambia's Concept Paper for Country Strategic Plan 2004-2010. DevTech's comments were added to comments submitted by the WID office team (Anne Dykstra and Julie Hanson Swanson) reviewing the concept paper. • Submitted feedback to WID office on USAID/Burundi's Interim Integrated Strategic Plan (ISP) 2003-2005. DevTech's comments were added to comments submitted by the WID office education specialist, Julie Hanson Swanson, reviewing the Burundi ISP. • Submitted feedback to WID office on USAID/Democratic Republic of Congo's Integrated Strategic Plan (ISP) 2004-2008. DevTech's comments were added to comments submitted by the WID office education specialist, Julie Hanson Swanson, reviewing the DRC ISP.
5. Develop, or Assist in, Writing Reports, Studies, and Concept Papers, and Develop Innovative Ideas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewed and submitted comments on the draft document circulated by the UN Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI) at the October 31 hosted at UNICEF to the WID office. These were included in final comments sent by USAID to UNICEF.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sent additional material on successful public/private partnerships in girls' education to EGAT/ED office for meeting in Paris.• Submitted three GWE Success Stories from FY02 to EGAT/WID for use in upcoming USAID Annual Report and/or Front Lines publication. The stories highlighted the following: a girls' education fund established in Morocco (CSSF); a media campaign in El Salvador; and a stamp in honor of girls' education in Peru.• Drafted summary of SO2 (girls' education) activities for EGAT/WID submission to the FY02 USAID Annual Review. Submitted summary to WID office for review and editing.• Met with WID office education specialist, Julie Hanson Swanson, to provide input on planned publication that highlights the successes and challenges of the past GWE activity 1997-2003.
6. Coordinate Monitoring and Evaluation Activities for GWE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conducted background research on a proposed monitoring and evaluation trip to El Salvador to visit the Equity in the Classroom (EIC) project. Spoke with EIC project director, Wendy Rimer, regarding timing and usefulness of observing a workshop on teacher training.
7. Develop and Maintain Reference Materials on Girls' and Women's Education Initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project Associate is moving GWE files housed at DevTech into the existing GWE files at USAID WID Office. The files have been organized by contract and country. Project Associate alerted new WID hire, Julie Hanson Swanson, to the location of the files. Additional GWE-related materials, such as girls' education reports and videos, are being sorted and placed on a common shelf.• Project Associate finished moving GWE files housed at DevTech into the existing GWE files at USAID WID office. The files have been grouped by contract and are being labeled. Additional GWE-related materials, such as girls' education reports and videos, have been sorted on a common shelf.• Finished adding labels to the GWE contract files housed at USAID WID Office. Compiled an alphabetical list of all girls' education related materials on bookshelf. Showed draft of index to CTO for review.

B. Project Management

General Contract Tasks	Specific Tasks Completed
8. Contract Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Submitted DevTech's monthly report for September 2002.• Submitted DevTech's quarterly report for July-September 2002.• Submitted costs for September 2001 Project Director's meeting at the Ronald Reagan Building to Shirley Toth, WID Office, as per request.• Submitted DevTech's monthly report for October 2002.• Submitted DevTech's quarterly report for July-September 2002 to CDIE.• Began DevTech's end of contract process. Submitted timeline to CTO to indicate organizational steps to ensure seamless close-out.• Reviewed furniture/equipment inventory list and updated list. Identified items at DevTech purchased under GWE contract, and items transferred to GWE from previous projects. The Contracting Officer and CTO approved Furniture Disposition 12/02.• Submitted DevTech's monthly report for November 2002.• Submitted request for a contract modification until March 2003 and it was granted.

C. Implementation Constraints

While the EGAT/WID team is still incomplete in that the CTO position is vacant, DevTech and GWE contractors continue to work through the acting CTO, Mr. Edward Lijewski. In spite of this, the contractors and EGAT/WID staff are working hard to facilitate all activities that need attention in a smooth and efficient manner.

Performance

Despite the above constraints, the DevTech team continues to aid in facilitating EGAT/WID program management of contractors and communication with EGAT/WID-assisted missions. DevTech provides technical assistance by responding in an academic and practical fashion, applying theory to praxis, to papers, projects and drafts. The DevTech team is maintaining its efforts to remain current in the field of girls' and women's education.